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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY China

DATE:

INFO. See below

SUBJECT Political Information: Details on Repatriation of
Soviet Citizens, Tientsin

DIST. 28 August 1947

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ORIGIN

1. Persons to receive visas for repatriation from Tientsin to the USSR have been notified that their names are on the list, but they have not yet received their visas.
2. There are two categories of evacuees. (a) Orphans, young people and jobless citizens will be the first to go and will be repatriated at the expense of the Soviet Government. This first group is supposed to leave by the end of July or the beginning of August. (b) The second group will include all other citizens who have volunteered to go. An estimate on the time of departure of the second group has not yet been stated. The first group to leave Tientsin will consist of approximately 800 persons. The total number of persons to go from Tientsin has been stated variously as either 1300 individuals or 1300 families, the former figure probably being correct.
3. Although the voluntary character of the evacuation is being emphasized, all Soviet citizens who are registered as jobless have been summoned and encouraged to express their willingness to go. The Soviet Consul General has stated that he wants to purge the local community of useless members. The registration for volunteers, which was supposed to terminate on 4 July, was extended. By 7 July there were 860 volunteers.

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4. The Soviet Consul General has submitted a list of 627 Soviet citizens to be repatriated at the end of July. Of these persons 330 are male and 297 female; 150 fall between the age groups of 1 to 20; 110 between 21 and 30; 122 between 31 and 40; 134 between 41 and 50; and 121 over 50 / 7 total 637. The Chinese Police bureau is investigating all persons on the list for dual citizenship. Some question may be raised on the repatriation of those who hold Chinese citizenship papers.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☒

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5. The Consulate officials are dissatisfied with the comparatively small percentage of Soviet registrants, as only about one-fifth (approximately 800, see paragraph 6) of the Soviet Community have registered. Some have not registered because of the stories circulated by young Soviet citizens who arrived from Harbin in June. Steps are being taken to stop these stories; Dobrovolsky, one of the men who circulated them, has been sent back to Harbin by the Chinese at the request of the Soviets.

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6. N. V. Selesniev, Secretary of the Tientsin Soviet Association, who arrived in Tsingtao on 28 July, told Lelchitsky that only 800 out of 3,000, or 27% of the Soviet community in Tientsin, had registered for repatriation. In contrast, 70% of the Tsingtao Soviet community had registered, a higher percentage than either Tientsin or Shanghai. The failure of the Tientsin personnel to register can be attributed, in part, to the anti-Soviet propaganda campaign of the emigre press in Tientsin.

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7. Consul General Kurdyukov has expressed great dissatisfaction with Soviet residents of Tientsin. He stated that the community has become disorganized; that there is too much loose talk about the repatriation; that many individuals have liquidated their affairs without proper instruction; and that false propaganda about life in the USSR is being spread by Russian emigres.

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8. Consul General Ledovsky at Peiping has stated that visas will be issued in the order in which applications are received. All Soviet citizens will be repatriated except those connected with Soviet official institutions and those who own profitable business enterprises. A statement to that effect has already been registered with Chinese authorities.

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9. Soviet citizens will be evacuated by the Soviet ships "Kuibyshev" and "Golgol". First priority on the list are the "Crib" orphans. All young men are being sent to the Tomsk area, and all other persons will go to South Sakhalin. Only a very few technicians and specialists will be sent to Khabarovsk and Vladivostok.
10. All Soviet citizens are being asked if they intend to be repatriated; those not willing to go are requested to put their reasons in written form and have been warned that if they do not go, the consulate will not guarantee their future safety. As a result, all Soviet citizens are becoming either ardent Soviet supporters or vehement opposers. Deals are being made on departure dates on the basis of voluntary contributions to the repatriation.

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11. Note: The following is a series of incidents showing the Soviet Consulate's handling of individual cases, which may indicate various Soviet policies in regard to the repatriation.)

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a. A Soviet citizen named Boris Imshenetsky carried on effective propaganda among chiefs of the trade union movement (?) to encourage registration for repatriation. He was summoned by the Soviet Consulate during the first part of July and praised for his constructive work in getting Soviet labor to register for repatriation. He was then given an envelope and told that the contents of the envelope were a reward for his work. Expecting money, Imshenetsky took the envelope outside before opening it, whereupon he found a visa to the USSR. He has been expressing himself strongly to members of the Soviet Community on the injustice of this reward.

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b. A Russian emigre, George B. Vagin, has been seriously reprimanded by the Soviet Consulate for agitation against the repatriation. Vagin escaped from the USSR in 1935 and has always freely expressed his opinions on life there. His wife, however, has retained her Soviet citizenship. Vagin was told by the Consulate that if he did not cease his anti-Soviet propaganda, coercive action would be taken against him.

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c. A considerable amount of personal property will accompany persons being repatriated. A wealthy Soviet Jew, E. K. Ifliand, has been promised that a "Kolhoz" will be named in his honor after he gets to the USSR in exchange for 130 head of cattle which he will take with him and turn over to this "Kolhoz". It is estimated that repatriates (from Tientsin?) will take approximately 500 head of milk cattle to the USSR.

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d. A Soviet woman inquired of the Consulate if she would be able to send money from the USSR to her parents in Tientsin and if she would be allowed to return to Tientsin if she did not like life in the USSR. She was told that it would be advisable for her to take her parents with her, as she would not be able to return for at least two or three years and that it would take at least that long for her to repay her "free" transportation. She was also told that she should take with her wearing apparel to last two or three years or longer.

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e. A Soviet citizen named Pettel asked the Consulate to postpone his repatriation. He was told by K. G. Ershov, Secretary of the Soviet Consulate, that he may remain under only one condition--that he go to Tsingtao and work for Soviet intelligence.

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